

NATIVE OF PRUSSIA WHO GAVE LIFE FOR U. S. AWARDED D. S. C.

Carl Bolt, Fountain Hill, Proud
of Son Who Enlisted at 18
and Crossed with
Pershing.

Honored Posthumously for
Work as Member of Patrol
That Captured 4 Huns Who
Gave Up Information.

Special Dispatch to "The Press."

Allentown, Pa., Feb. 15.—With the clearing up of the casualty lists due to the cessation of hostilities, it has just been learned that the first Lehigh County soldier to earn the Distinguished Service Cross, although not the first to get it, was Private Bernhard H. Bolt, a Pershing Crusader, killed May 18 last, now sleeping in an unknown grave on the plains of Picardy.

The reason that he was not the first to get the Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Lehigh is that the gallantry that won it cost him his life. The cross was awarded posthumously by General Pershing himself, and so modest was the family about the great honor won by the soldier that the facts might even yet not have come to light had it not been for some necessary action by the Courts, due to fate and his Government insurance.

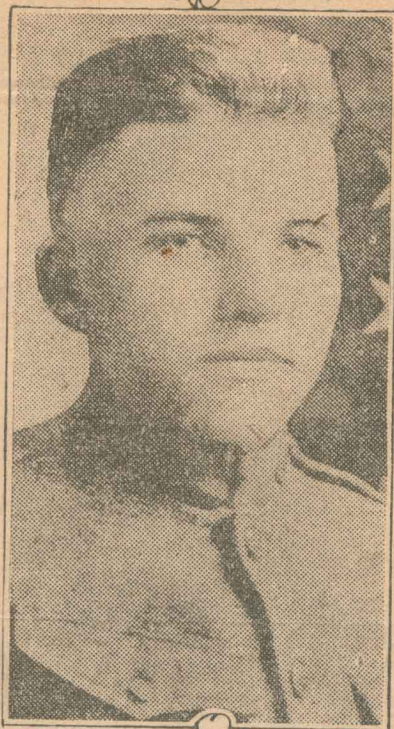
The extraordinary feature of the matter is that the hero, who volunteered in the regular army at the age of eighteen, was a native of Germany.

Private Bolt was born in West Prussia in 1897, son of Carl Bolt, 916 Seneca Street, Fountain Hill, a machinist at the Bethlehem Steel Works. The family came to the United States fourteen years ago and in due time the father, than whom there is no more thorough-going American, was naturalized. "I always advocated a free country," said the father, "and I am a thorough believer in the land of my adoption. My children grew up breathing the freedom of the Stars and Stripes. My soldier son was the third oldest of the family. He was very courageous, strong and true, and he was always good to his mother."

He had hardly left school four years ago when Bernard Bolt joined the United States Army, and as a soldier of Company K, 28th Infantry, crossed the ocean with the Commander-in-Chief.

Just as the testimony of the official records shows he was a good deal of a fighter, the family testifies he was not much of a writer and they are unaware of his movements as a soldier of the First Army. Between the middle of December and this week several official communications arrived, the first of which, addressed to the father, was as follows:—

"From the Office of the Adjutant General Washington, D. C. This office has been advised by cablegram by the commanding general, American Expeditionary Forces, that he has awarded the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously to your son, Bernhard H. Bolt, late a private of Company K, 28th Infantry, for the following act: Private Bolt on May 18, 1918, was a member of a patrol consisting of an officer and four men, who with great daring entered a dangerous portion of the enemy trenches, where they surrounded a party of nearly double their own strength, captured a greater number than themselves, drove



Bernhard H. Bolt

off the enemy rescuing party and made their way back to our lines with four prisoners, from whom valuable information was obtained. He died of wounds received in this expedition."

During the daring raid a mine was exploded, from which Private Bolt received his fatal wounds and he died very shortly afterward in a hospital.

The notification of the posthumous decoration of the Lehigh hero was followed by another, to the effect that he had been insured for \$10,000, bringing an allotment of \$57.60 a month for twenty years from the Government. The policy was made payable to the mother, Mrs. Wilhelmina Bolt, who during the Fall died of influenza, leaving her husband and six children, four of whom are minors.

To unravel the complication, Mr. Bolt sought the advice of the attorney who had secured for him his naturalization papers, Ralph H. Schatz, who drew up the proper papers and presented them to Judge Groman. Under the intestate laws half of the dead soldier's estate goes to the father and the remainder in equal shares to the surviving brothers and sisters, and for the four minors the Court named as guardian the Citizens' Trust Company. The four minor children are Dorothy, Emma, Meta and William, aged from seven to nineteen years.

Attorney Schatz figured that the share of the youngest, when she becomes of age, will be upwards of a thousand dollars, and her total income from her brother's policy in twenty years will be about \$1500.

The father this week received a registered package containing the coveted insignia, one of the rarest trophies on earth, all ribbon and gold, inscribed with the words "For Valor," and Mr. Bolt declares that, next to the memory of the mother and boy they lost, this Distinguished Service Cross is the family's most cherished possession.